

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) SECURITY INFORMATION REPORT  
 TOPIC Soviet Troops in Oranienburg 50X1-HUM

EVALUATION

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REFERENCES

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REMARKS

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On 5 March 1952, the Weisse Stadt Settlement, Oranienburg (N 53/Z 67), quartered at least 800 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and tank insignia. At 10:30 a.m. on 3 March, the head of a convoy of about 20 trucks was seen on Ernst-Thaelmannstrasse as far as Kanalbruecke (bridge), and the roar of the convoy was still at the Weisse Stadt Settlement. The trucks towed 76.2-mm field guns. Sedan and jeep carrying a colonel and lieutenant colonel, were at the head of the convoy. Four 76.2-mm field guns with crews of about eight men each were in firing position just southeast of the Eden railroad station at about 10:30 a.m. on 5 March. An aiming circle with three soldiers was seen 60 to 70 meters behind the firing position from where a telephone line ran to the aiming circle. Three artillery officers and 3 men with a battery commander's telescope were in a fox hole near the guns. Trucks marked by a white artillery insignia, stood about 80 meters from the guns. At the same time, trucks were seen coming from the direction of the Weisse Stadt Settlement, towing 76.2-mm field guns and marked with a white artillery insignia. The 76.2-mm field guns were emplaced just west of the airfield. There were crews of six men with each gun, with one soldier of each crew holding a white-red flag. The artillery pieces were aimed at two soldiers standing 600 meters away. The commands were given by the soldiers with the flags. Three caterpillar tractors towing 100-mm AT guns, 1 sedan and truck marked with a white artillery insignia and towing 76.2-mm field gun were seen leaving the Weisse Stadt Settlement toward Borgsdorf at 2 p.m. Troops in the Weisse Stadt Settlement engaged in rifle drill. (1)

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2. the supply officer of the headquarters unit in Oranienburg Castle was one Lieutenant Colonel Churanokov (fnu). the signal officer in charge of the telephone station in Borgsdorf was one Major Danilenko who often came to Oranienburg by rail and returned to Borgsdorf by motor vehicle. Danilenko is not identical with Lieutenant Colonel Danilenko (fnu), the chief of the Koch Office in Oberswalde. The construction of two garages of 24 bays each in Camp Jacksonhausen and of one garage of 24 bays at the castle was scheduled for March. (2) arrived in Toltow (N 53/Z 73) on 27 February and would remain until 5 March. A one-star general was in the restricted Weisse Stadt area at 9 a.m. on 1 March. On 3 and 5 March the gun sheds of the 76.2-mm regiments were only 50 percent occupied while those of the 100-mm AT gun regiment were occupied to capacity by 24 guns. Only

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12 of the prime movers of the 100-mm regiment were noticed on 6 March.

(1) On 6 March, Lieutenant Colonel Smirnov (fnu), belonging to the tank unit which had a rhomb emblem on the tanks and which was quartered in the former concentration camp, was seen driving truck [redacted] On 7 March, a major who was the chief of the club in the Schuetzenhaus on Bernauer Allee drove truck [redacted]

[redacted] every evening at the end of February troops practiced submachine gun firing on the target range near the clinker plant (?). Between 9:30 and 10 p.m. on 23 February, [redacted] troops were engaged in semi-automatic fire with submachine guns, shooting at a field target 80 to 100 meters away. The target was illuminated for as long as a second. [redacted] the practice was marksmanship training and that the soldiers with the best record would form a marksman unit. These soldiers had to move into other quarters. Every Soviet soldier had to take a shower once a week. About 1,000 troops from the concentration camp and the Panzerschule took a shower daily. The about 500 signal troops from Oranienburg Castle also take showers there. (2)

4. On 11 February, four model BA 64 armored scout cars and motorcycles were seen through the open doors of the sawmill. No details could be obtained as the installation was guarded by a sentry. [redacted] the name of the 50X1-HUM commanding officer at the concentration camp was one Colonel Skoropa (fnu) rather than Skomora (fnu). (2) The majority of the troops departed with tank and trucks for a practice in the Schmachtenhagen-Grabowsee area on 21 February. (3) Colonel Gruenshenkov (fnu) went on leave on 26 February. (2)

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7. The clinker plant is no longer in operation. On the premises of the factory situated on Lehnitz Lake north of the SS Settlement, there were target ranges and another section of the area was used as training field for motor vehicles. Three low wooden buildings [redacted] believed to contain fuel were situated in this training area. Trucks [redacted] were seen hauling gasoline barrels to these wooden buildings. (2)

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[redacted] Comments.

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- (1) The report confirms the previous belief that the restricted Weisse Stadt area is probably occupied by three regiments of the unidentified AT artillery brigade of the Second Gds Mecz Army namely, 1 regiment with 24 x 100-mm AT guns and two regiments of 24 x 76.2-mm AT guns each. [redacted]. The absence of 76.2-mm guns on 3 and 5 March 1952 can probably be explained by the fact that two trains were loaded with components of the brigade and dispatched to Jueterbog on 1 March. [redacted]. Lieutenant Colonel Boshkov (fnu), mentioned in paragraph 2, is probably in command of a 76.2-mm AT Arty regiment and not a lieutenant general nor in command of the brigade as was previously assumed.

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- (2) The information confirms the headquarters and headquarters units and the unidentified signal battalion in Oranienburg Castle, and the motorcycle battalion of the 25th Tank Div in the sawmill of the former concentration camp. [redacted]. Except for the target ranges which the present report states are here, the report contains no changes [redacted]

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[redacted] Lieutenant Colonel Churanokov (fnu), Lieutenant Colonel Danilenko (fnu) and Major Danilenko (fnu) are reported for the first time. The other officers are known [redacted] and except for Colonel Gruenshenkov (fnu) they are known as supply officers of units of the 25th Tank Div.

- (3) [redacted] units from Oranienburg were engaged in field exercises in the Loewenberg-Bergsdorf area from 23 to 27 February. [redacted]

(4) [redacted]

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